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Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 SAJ-01 CU-04 DHA-02 AID-05 EB-08 TRSE-00
OMB-01 /099 W
----------161936Z 066778 /50
R 161732Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5741
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS BAMAKO 0655

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR, ML

SUBJECT: FRENCH PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO MALI

REF: A) BAMAKO 0557 (NOTAL); B) BAMAKO 0591 (NOTAL)

1. VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING ARRIVED FEBRUARY 13 TO BEGIN FIRST STATE VISIT TO MALI BY FRENCH PRESIDENT SINCE INDEPENDENCE. AFTER COLORFUL CEREMONEY AND BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE AT AIRPORT, GISCARD AND MALIAN PRESIDENT MOUSSA TRAORE RODE SLOWLY INTO TOWN IN OPEN CAR TO GENUINELY FRIENDLY, APPLAUDING CROWDS. MOOD WAS FESTIVE. THERE WERE NO STUDENT ANTI-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS. (REF B) AMERICAN FLAG ON AMBASSADOR'S
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CAR, NO. 37 IN LONG PROCESSION, WAS SALUTED AND CHEERED REPEATEDLY ALONG THE WAY. SOVIET CHARGE IN CAR JUST AHEAD DREW NO RESPONSE. TWO PRESIDENTS HELD THEIR FIRST MEETING THAT EVENING.

2. FOLLOWING DAY GISCARD AND TRAORE FLEW TO TIMBUKTU FOR TOUR OF CITY. BACK IN BAMAKO THAT EVENINGS,

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GISCARD ATTENDED MASSIVE RECEPTION FOR FRENCH COMMUNITY, PRIVATE DINNER WITH PRESIDENT TRAORE, AND GALA RECEPTION AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE FOR MALIAN NOTABLES AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS WHICH FEATURED FIRE WORKS, DANCING BY DOGONS AND NATIONAL TROUPE JUST RETURNED FROM FESTAC, AND EXHIBITIONS OF MALIAN HAIR-STYLES AND HAUTE COUTURE.

3. THIS LAST RECEPTION WAS VENUE FOR TWO PRESIDENTS' FORMAL ADDRESSES. TRAORE WENT OVER GENERAL GROUND OF MALIAN POLICY AND TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO STATE THAT THOSE WHO IN YEARS AFTER INDEPENDENCE HAD GAINED IMPRESSION THAT MALI WAS HOSTILE TO WEST AND THEREFORE TO FRANCE WERE MISTAKEN. MAIN POINTS OF GISCARD'S RESPONSE WERE THAT FRANCE CONDEMNED MINORITY REGIME IN RHODESIA AND APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA; THAT FRANCE HENCEFORTH WOULD NOT SELL ARMS TO PRETORIA; AND THAT FRANCE WOULD FINANCE AND UNDERTAKE MAJOR MINERAL EXPLORATION PROJECT IN MALI. THESE STATEMENTS WERE GREETED WITH LOUD APPLAUSE.

4. AT DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 15, GISCARD SAID NEW FRANCO-MALIAN MONETARY ACCORDS WOULD BE CONCLUDED TOWARD MIDDLE OF APRIL. FIRST MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE IN MARCH AND SECOND IN EARLY APRIL. FRANCE WOULD, HE SAID, CONTINUE TO COVER MALI'S BUDGET DEFICIT. HE DISCLAIMED DIRECT INTEREST IN STATE ENTERPRISES BUT REITERATED FRANCE'S DESIRE TO PROVIDE "TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE" IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THEIR PERFORMANCE.
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5. VISIT WAS CLEARLY SEEN AS SUCCESSFUL BY BOTH SIDES. FURTHER COMMENT WILL FOLLOW SEPTEL AFTER SCHEDULED TALKS WITH MALIAN AND FRENCH OFFICALS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
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Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BAMAKO 557, 77 BAMAKO 591
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3311546
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH PRESIDENT\'S VISIT TO MALI
TAGS: PFOR, FR, ML, (GISCARD D\'ESTAING, VALERY), (TRAORE, MOUSSA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/191f4bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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